

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

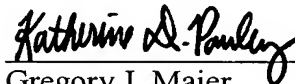
Favorable consideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 are pending; Claims 2-7, 16, and 17 are amended; and no claims are cancelled or newly added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment, as support for these amendments may be found, at least, in Figures 1A-1D and 2, as well as in pages 63-80 of the specification.

Consequently, in view of foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Katherine D. Pauley
Registration No. 50,607